

Holy Cross Retreat

<https://holycrosscentre.com/community/>



7th

June, 2024

Letter 225

Farewell



As mentioned last week, our three postulants Thang, Cu'ong and Hai will be leaving for a holiday at home before heading to the Philippines for their novitiate. Before leaving they will attend the ordination in Adelaide (next weekend) of three of their Vietnamese brothers

(Cong, Doan and Tuan Paul). For that reason this Sunday will be their final Sunday at Holy Cross. They will farewell us with a song.

Tri

Tri will also attend the ordination and stay on for a retreat as part of his preparation for final profession. You will see below and invitation to this event which will be live-streamed.

Chris...recorded Masses



Chris was in Sydney for three days this week to attend a Provincial Council meeting. This is a challenge for a University president and it prompts me to express again our appreciation for more than four years of weekly recording Sunday Mass. Prior to COVID-19, Saturdays were Chris' 'day off'. Now, every week he prepares a homily and records the Mass starting at 9.00am. He records the music and does all the uploading which usually takes til 2.30pm. Many people have expressed their gratitude and their reliance on the weekly recorded Mass.

Budi



Budi secured his driving licence on Tuesday. He had driven here soon after his arrival from Indonesia, but after six months he was no longer able to drive on his Indonesian licence, until he supplied new paperwork and undertook a driving test. That has taken some time. Now he will be able drive the brothers to ELSPM as he used to do. For some months, a vehicle left here at "Five to Nine" each morning (Monday to Friday). Most

days it required a drop off and a 2.30pm pick up by one of the community members. Congratulations Budi.

JD – 36



Joseph Dominic Tan celebrated his 36th birthday on Tuesday. The community waited a day because a number of the brothers went to see the evening session of 'Cabrini' on Tuesday (discount day).

Joseph (Joey)

Joseph sent an email last week reporting on how he's going.



"I am doing fine. Actually everything is new for me in the States. A whole new experience with people, culture, subways, accents, parishes. I am getting a feel of the Mission appeals now and have experienced enormous support from our brothers here at the Immaculate Conception Monastery. They've been very generous and hospitable. The first mission appeal was a great experience.

The Pastor (PP as I am used to) is Filipino and he was very supportive. Last weekend I was with the Capuchins in New Jersey. They were very kind and hospitable. I am looking forward to another weekend in NJ.

I am learning to get around here. Also realised quite a lot of people speak Spanish. So I'm trying to learn a few Spanish words too. Been to the city once and past the city twice. I find it quite overwhelming walking through a 'jungle of buildings' in Manhattan.



Anyways, we've been praying for the grieving families who have lost loved ones in the landslide in Enga. It's been all over the news here in America, esp New York. Guess it gives me something too to draw on as I continue to ask for support for our ministries in PNG.

Give my regards to everyone please. God bless and take care. Adios amigo! Buenas Noches from NY."

Final profession – Justin Durai-Raj



Justin is currently living in Glen Osmond, Adelaide and on Saturday June 15th, he will make final profession as a Passionist. Justin was born in India and was already ordained when he began to seriously consider a call to religious life, and in particular to Passionist life. Our Indian province advised him they were more geared to accepting younger candidates and suggested if he was open to living in Australia, Holy Spirit

Province would probably consider him. It was not an easy or brief journey since then, but he is about to realise an amazing dream.

Three ordinations



The three men above will be ordained to the priesthood on Sunday June 16th in Glen Osmond, Adelaide on the same weekend as Justin's final profession. All three have been deacons for almost a year. Cong is presently in Oxley, Brisbane. Doan is in Marrickville and Tuan Paul is in Endeavour Hills, Melbourne. They will return to their communities for a brief time before travelling back to Vietnam to celebrate and minister with family and friends. They will then return to Australia for their first year of ordination.

These ordinations mark twenty Vietnamese who have been ordained (as well as deacon Phi) which is quite remarkable, since it was only 2005 when the first Passionists went to Vietnam. We will have our five Vietnamese and two Indonesian community members travel to Adelaide for this great occasion.

Use of our Properties

The professed members of the Passionists received a letter this week outlining some scenarios for possible use of many of our properties, to generate a greater income stream. Our financial advisors have pointed out that we have a critical future, unless we can raise some funds in this manner.

**PROPERTY
OPTIONS**

We are being asked to contribute to a consultative process which can lead in time to mature decisions. Each religious and each community has been asked to study the scenarios regarding each of our houses in Australia and apply our reflections to own premisses especially.

There are many details implied by the scenarios – e.g.

**PROPERTY
SCENARIOS**

necessary studies to be undertaken, the feasibility of rezoning, the costs of development the costs of alternative accommodation etc. We have been reminded that all of these will need further professional study. This is a way of getting the ball rolling in the hope of prompting further ideas being suggested.

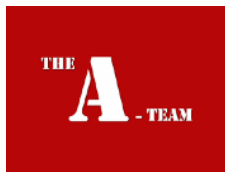
Obviously there are many people associated with us, with business skills that we lack. We would like to call on that experience but we must remember that our properties are also our homes. Whatever we recommend as income producing for our local community must consider the local community needs, which of course in some cases could include relocation.

How do we manage.....



Our community will have discussions and I would hope some of the special groups (our staff, Companions, A Team, St Gabriel's Committee and generally interested and especially qualified members of our Passionist family) would be willing to reflect on what scenarios have been suggested and offer us feedback. We can do this through a series of small group meetings, so please 'Stay Tuned'.

A Team



In 1992, Denis Travers asked his uncle (Gerald Wright) if he could help with some maintenance issues at Holy Cross. Gerald asked his friend Vin Molloy to assist him and they decided to make Friday, their day at Holy Cross. The 'A Team' was born. Stan Wells was a 'fitter and turner' so when he joined Gerald and Vince in 1993 there was some helpful expertise. Over time Noel Spinks (1998), Jack Brolly (1999), Neville Hackett, Gerard O'Donnell, John Stretch, John Chubb, Graham Newcomb, Ed Porad and Frank Van den Boom became 'A Team' members. The last four make up the current team, while 91 year old Vin continues to make cameo appearances related to financial issues, despite retiring

We have three other men, Bruno Petrocco, Peter Norman and Vince Celestino who we regard as honorary A Team members. They offer their much valued assistance in other areas as do the members and associates of the San Gabriel Committee, and there are so many other helpers at Holy Cross.

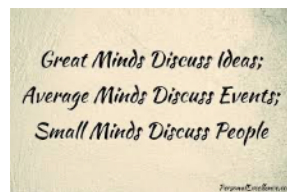


It is impossible to estimate what the 'A' Team has saved the community financially through the various tasks that members have taken on, and the difference they have made to the house and the establishment and upkeep of the Centre with painting, and a wide variety of repair and maintenance tasks.

The 'A Team' is seeking some assistance and it is an exclusive club! A successful applicant has to be committed to spend some hours each Friday (of course there are

all sorts of reasons why this is not possible some weeks). General handyman skills are recommended.

It is customary to start with a cuppa at 9.00am and participate in the discussing world events of the past week with one or two community members. Work begins with acknowledgement of the immediate tasks to be tackled, which can be very varied considering the size of Holy Cross. It is normally decided during the discussion of world events whether those present will stay for lunch, which is organised by Bro Jerome. That decision will determine the finishing time which rarely goes beyond 2.30pm and can end at 12.30pm.



The current members John, Graham, Ed and Frank cannot all be present every week and they have to respect that ageing slows down the completion of some jobs. It was wonderful to learn last Sunday when Graham spoke at Mass, that there some men who are willing to help out, not necessarily every Friday, but when they can. Every past and present member has assured us of his enjoyment of the time spent here, and the community certainly has been richly blessed. We are obliged to have a

Police Check and a 'Working with Children' card (Please see Tina Minichilli). If you are interested, please contact John, Graham or Ed.

Air-Con

At Holy Cross we have two large air-conditioners that have 'given up the ghost'. If anyone knows a good reliable dealer where we can purchase at a good price, we would appreciate that advice, please.

Mowing



Another form of assistance that could help us with our reduced community numbers, is someone willing to help with mowing (using a ride-on mower). Perhaps for a few hours on a Friday? We would require the usual Police Check and a 'Working with Children' card. If there is anyone willing to consider this, we would ask them to talk with [Peter Norman](#) about what is required in terms of using the mowers we have. Because the Holy Cross Centre operates, there are some times in some weeks that are not suitable because of noise disruption, so arrangements would need to be made with [Mayrose](#) from week to week.

Corpus Christi...the Body of Christ

It was suggested that I make available last Sunday's homily.



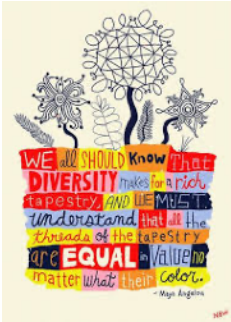
Over many years when today’s feast was celebrated, the primary focus was on the species – the bread and wine, becoming the body of Christ. Since Vatican 2 the focus has changed with a greater emphasis being placed on the people of God (us) being and becoming the Body of Christ! The expression used by St Augustine in the 5th century has helped: “At Eucharist **we become what we eat**”.

We see it now not so much as receiving communion, but that sharing communion expresses our commitment to be in communion with one another. If we become what we eat (the body of Christ), we can’t do that alone: we become what we eat in **community**. Wherever we see or feel the true signs of love – forgiving, caring, helping, supporting, laughing and so much more, we see a community – a family.



Here at Holy Cross we are a family! Like any family, we are not perfect, but we belong - this is home and here are our sisters and brothers. The more connected we become, the more support we can give and receive. In any family, some people prefer to be independent; some don’t ask for help; some don’t want help. But there are others who want to belong. They want and they need support. Once these people form a small network, they find people willing to help and they find people who need help.

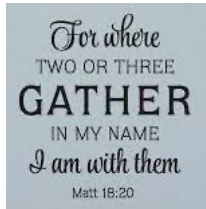
Whatever it is that people want, we hope they can find it here among us. We want to be welcoming and inclusive, sharing and growing together through the joys, struggles and sorrows of everyday life. Today, so much nastiness is directed to people who are different and especially towards refugees. We come from different cultures and family backgrounds, so it is natural that we will have different opinions and different ideas, but that is what makes true community – the appreciation of difference! In the body of Christ there is difference but everyone belongs.



OMNIA

Pope Francis is continually reminding people that the Church is for everyone. The Italian is ‘omnia’ and he often says, “Omnia, omnia, omnia” Perhaps that will be his legacy.

True community allows strangers to become friends and those friends to become family. This is the gospel in action. Some people looking from the outside don’t see this because to them, family, fun and fellowship are not ‘religious’, yet the entire gospel story and its message is about Jesus bringing people into family fellowship.



Unfortunately, the emphasis on the kingdom that Jesus spoke of

became something to happen in this next life, but Jesus said “the kingdom has arrived and is here now right now, among you” and he pointed out - “wherever two or three gather in my name, I am with them”. We can be grateful to all those who have heard the call to create a family at Holy Cross and for all those who have helped it happen.

We cannot live true Christian life outside of a community – we are called to be the body of Christ - Jesus for our world – seeing with his eyes, hearing with his ears, reaching out with his embrace, healing with his compassion and loving with his heart. When Luke describes St Paul’s conversion, he reports that Paul heard a voice saying “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” Paul asked, “Who are you?” The voice replied, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting”. (Acts 9:4-5). Who was Paul persecuting – the early Christian community – the body of Christ!



The good we do for one another in very simple and ordinary ways can have a profound effect on others – that is how the body of Christ works, because it is fuelled by Jesus’ spirit. The feast of Corpus Christi, is truly the feast of community that acts in Jesus’ name.

We gather here on Sundays to celebrate that we are “becoming more and more, what we eat”. Welcome to the feast at which all are welcome. Omnia, omnia, omnia!

omnia omnia omnia

Cabrini



At Mass last Sunday, we played the trailer for the movie ‘**Cabrini**’ that was included in last week’s newsletter. Already, a number of people have shared how inspired they were by seeing this movie, which tells a previously untold story, certainly in Australia. Several of the community attended on Tuesday night. The movie is being shown at the Palace theatre in Balwyn. Tuesdays are discount day and the sessions times are 12.15pm and 5.45pm. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZaMIUazXvyY>

The Chosen – Session 4

Season 4 has been released. There are several YouTube clips of interest.

Warning: Passport costs are about to rise

The Australian passport, already one of the priciest travel documents globally, is about to become even more expensive. As of July 1, 2024, the cost of a 10-year adult passport will leap by 15%, from \$325 to \$373.75.

**THE PASSIONISTS OF
HOLY SPIRIT PROVINCE**



Warmly invite you to

**The Perpetual Profession of
Br. Cao Van Tri, CP**

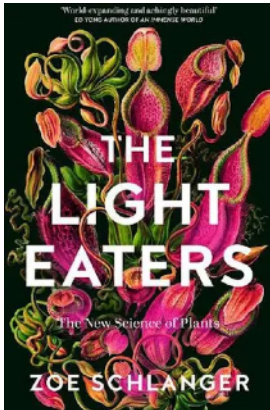
July
Friday **12** 7:30 PM
2024

**Holy Cross Retreat
207 Serpells road, Templestowe, VIC 3106**

Refreshments to follow in the dining hall

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**Please RSVP for catering purposes by 5th July 2024
to f.xcaovantri@gmail.com or 0468 865 574**

What Plants know



In David Attenborough's series 'The Private Life of Plants, he described plants "extraordinary sensibility, that they compete endlessly for survival and interact with animals and insects: they can see, count, communicate, adjust position, strike, and capture". A new book by Zoe Schlanger explains even greater wonders about plant intelligence .

"To meet the challenges they face, plants have come up with some of the most creative methods for surviving of any living thing - us included. Many are so ingenious that they seem nearly impossible".

Schlanger claims that plants use electricity for internal communication. They can hear the sounds of caterpillars eating. They can remember the last time they have been visited by a bee and how many times they have been visited - so they have a concept of time and can count. They not only communicate with each other, they can also communicate with other species of plants and animals, allowing some of them to manipulate animals to defend or fertilise them. How does a vine learn to tie itself to a post or another plant? There is so much happening within what seems an inanimate world. Plants truly are a wonder!



Birthdays coming up



Do you remember this man? Actually if you ignore the face, and focus on the hair styles, that might help.

I've not seen him with his most recent style, but I have seen this photo. We

send greetings to **Luke** for his 30th birthday next Monday.



On the same day, **Rafael** celebrates his 42nd birthday. Next year he will celebrate his birthday in Vanimo, Papua New Guinea.

We are having a BBQ on Sunday night, mainly as a farewell meal for the Postulants, but we'll celebrate Luke and Raphael's birthdays as well.

Humour

“There are only two things to worry about, either you are healthy or you are sick. If you are healthy, then there is nothing to worry about. But if you are sick there are only two things to worry about, either you will get well or you will die. If you get well, then there is nothing to worry about. But if you die there are only two things to worry about, either you will go to heaven or to hell. If you go to heaven, then there is nothing to worry about. And if you go to hell, you'll be so busy shaking hands with old friends you won't have time to worry.”

A Roman legionnaire walked into a bar, held up two fingers and said, “Five beers, please”.

I tried to catch a frog yesterday. Mist.

Working in a mirror factory is something I can totally see myself doing.

Someone stole my Microsoft Office and they're gonna pay. You have my word.

Relationships are like algebra. Have you ever looked at your X and wondered Y?

Money talks but all mine says is goodbye.

You know that tingly feeling you get when you love someone? That's common sense leaving your body.

Money can't buy happiness, but it keeps the kids in touch.

Someone stole my mood ring yesterday. I still don't know how I feel about it.

You're not fat, you're just easier to see.

If you think nobody cares whether you're alive, try missing a couple of home loan repayments.

Two prison guards were changing shifts in the morning. “You know that prisoner 185 ran off in the night” said the retiring guard. The other guard sighed, “Ah finally. No more of that damn hammering”.

Why did the old man fall down the well? He couldn't see that well.

Two windmills were sitting on a hill. One asks the other, "Do you have a favourite song?" The other replies, "Well... all my life I have been a heavy metal fan."

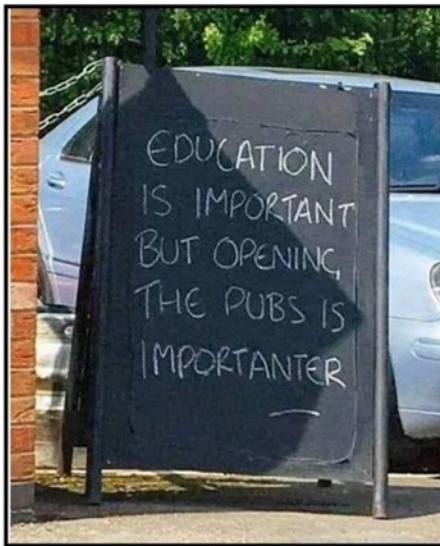
ASKED MY HUSBAND TO PUT THE



PILLOWCASES ON THE PILLOWS.

**MY WIFE MADE ME
COFFEE THIS MORNING AND
WINKED AT ME WHEN SHE
HANDED ME THE CUP.**

**I'VE NEVER BEEN MORE
SCARED OF A DRINK IN ALL
OF MY LIFE.**



The doctor asked me to spend at least one hour per day on the treadmill.



Prayers

We remember all the recently deceased and those celebrating memories of loved ones, especially, **John Smith** (7th June), **John Chubb** (8th June), **Maria DiMauro** (10th June), **Salvatore Rao** and **Marie Ryan** (12th June).



Kevin Hennessy was hospitalised two weeks ago with a serious influenza infection which knocked him about. When I called on Wednesday his phone was switched off, so that meant he was definitely still in recovery mode! We spoke yesterday and on doctor's advice he has cancelled a number of commitments and is taking things slowly. Please keep Kevin in your prayers. As so many of us comment, Kevin said, "It's the ageing, mate!"

We also remember all others in our Holy Cross family who are unwell, especially.



Lorraine Gill (Jenny's sister-in-law) , Adrian Woon, Ann Burke, Margaret Enriquez, Maree Bartoli, Tony Tome, Robyn Burns, Paul Darbyshire, Mary Dunn, Carol Battistella, Pam Storey, John & Maeve Reardon, Gerry Bond, Ann Burke, Phil Drew, Peter & Bernadette Owen, Alexander Lim, Monique Hardinge, Michael O'Callaghan, Peter McNamara, Greg Agosta, Bronwyn Burke, Helen McLean, Pam Gartland, Patricia Keeghan, Anne Jenkins, Errol Lovett, Shirley Barnes, Sr Gen Walsh RSC, Chris O'Toole, Gerald Quinn CP, and baby Alfred Theodore in London.

The **Mass link** for this Sunday will be sent on Saturday afternoon by Chris.

Thank you

Brian